Homeland Defense

Edgewood Area – Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5423

U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command

Weapons of Mass Destruction Installation Preparedness

The Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Installation Preparedness (IP) program is a field-tested and proven process for preparing military installation emergency response personnel to respond to asymmetric attacks involving chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) weapons. Through baseline assessment, planning assistance, training and exercises, and technical assistance, the WMD Installation Preparedness program provides a systematic crawl, walk, run approach toward preparedness. The program can be delivered in its entirety or in a modular fashion depending on each installation's unique requirements.

Offered by the Homeland Defense Business Unit of the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM), the IP program leverages the expertise of the Army's premier chemical/biological (CB) research facility-the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center-and the experience that was gained under the Domestic Preparedness program. These resources, combined with the practical experience and knowledge of both civilian and military CB agent experts, allows IP program leaders to constantly assess and refine the processes and curriculum to include the latest developments from the field.

The WMD IP program has been successfully piloted at the Fort Bragg Army Base and Pope Air Force Base. The pilot's objective was to validate an approach for preparing key military installations against asymmetric attacks involving WMD. The pilot results convincingly illustrate that the IP program substantially reduced the impact of a WMD attack on mission (a 45% reduction in deployment delay), as well as the impact on installation operations. Further, Ft. Bragg was the first and only FORSCOM installation to receive a green rating in a WMD vulnerability assessment.

Process: The IP process consists of eight separate and distinct components that encompass assessment, training, planning, exercising, technical assistance, and sustainment. The program is conducted with mobile teams that go to the installation, thus promoting synergy and inter-operability among the military and civilian responders on the installation, as well as the mutual aid counterparts in the local, state, federal, and host nation communities.

Components

Command Workshop

The Command Workshop provides an overview of the WMD IP program and develops an awareness of the implications of a WMD incident on the installation and the effect on its mission.

Baseline Assessment

The Baseline Assessment component is a Chemical Weapons Tabletop Exercise that offers the installation an opportunity to determine what basic strengths and weaknesses exist within their emergency response system for dealing with a WMD incident. It also provides a built-in mechanism for measuring improvement throughout the process.

Training Program

Installation emergency responders receive up to six courses that provide comprehensive instruction on the WMD threat, recognizing signs and symptoms of CBRN material exposure, proper detection and identification, protection and decontamination techniques for handling CBRN materials, and medical management of casualties. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available for the courses.

Planning Workshop

The planning component involves either a review and refinement of existing installation response plans by SBCCOM WMD experts or joint development of response plans, if plans do not exist. WMD planning assistance is conducted during a facilitated workshop.

Technical Assistance

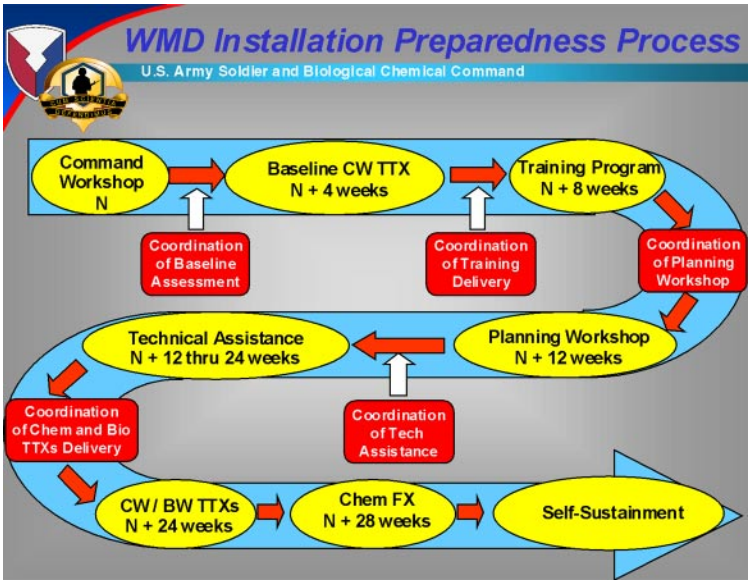
The Technical Assistance component compliments the planning, training, and exercise modules in the WMD Installation Preparedness process by filling in any technical voids that may exist. Technical Assistance includes vulnerability assessments of facilities to a WMD attack, equipment surveillance and maintenance, testing, and equipment consultations. Technical Assistance is dependent on the level of effort required.

Chemical Weapons/Biological Weapons Tabletop Exercises

This component offers tabletop exercises that will assist installation responders, local government officials, and mutual aid partners in gaining an understanding of the complications and unpredictability of an emergency response to a WMD incident and specifically, their role in the response. The tabletop exercises also serve to validate planning efforts and reinforce the training.

Chemical Weapons Field Exercise:

The capstone effort, a chemical weapons field exercise component, is conducted to test all or some aspects of the installation's WMD response plan to the maximum extent possible. This exercise is tailored to meet the specific objectives of the installation. It provides a practical means to assess whether an installation's WMD response plan is executable in an effective and timely manner. It will also provide insight into required changes to the plan.



Self-Sustainment

SBCCOM's goal is to provide the installations with the planning, training, and exercise tools to become both proficient and self sufficient in WMD response. This is accomplished by conducting train-the-trainer courses and leaving behind all preparedness materials used in the process.

The Best Defense

The WMD Installation Preparedness program offered by SBCCOM combines over 80 years of the U.S. Army's best chemical and biological research and development assets with practical, real-world knowledge and experience with emergency responders. Presented in a groundbreaking format that combines modularity, portability, and repeatability, Installation Preparedness works to ensure the safety of our military and civilian personnel and has demonstrated a significant reduction on mission impact. Preparation is the best defense, and the WMD Installation Preparedness program is the tool of choice for strengthening responses to CBRN weapons of mass destruction incidents.

Further information can be obtained by directing your inquiries via mail to CDR USA SBCCOM, ATTN: AMSSB-REN-HD-P (E3320), 5183 Blackhawk Rd, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5424, or via telephone at (410) 436-1483 or DSN 584-1483.